

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (GLIGOROV, KIRO), YO, US

SUBJECT: GLIGOROV VISIT

REF: STATE 008275

1. CHARGE SINDJELIC ON INSTRUCTIONS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE JANUARY 11 TO HAND OVER PRESIDENT TITO'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT THANKING FOR THE NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE AND TO DISCUSS THE GLIGOROV VISIT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST JOINED THE CONVERSATION LATER.

2. SINDJELIC STRESSED THAT THE GLIGOROV VISIT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SO FAR AND IS A PRECURSOR TO TITO'S VISIT. GLIGOROV WILL DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM TITO TO THE PRESIDENT. IT IS THE IMPRESSION IN THE YUGOSLAV PARLIAMENT AND GOY THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING REPLIES TO THEIR QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE REQUEST FOR GLIGOROV TO BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT. SINDJELIC SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED
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TO CALL ON VEST AND SEEK ACCELERATION OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT AND REPLIES TO PENDING QUESTIONS. SINDJELIC THEN ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET PROVIDED US WITH ANSWERS ON SOME QUESTIONS, I.E., NUMBER OF PERSONS COMING AND NAMES OF THOSE IN THE DELEGATION.

3. VINE REPLIED (AND VEST SUBSEQUENTLY REPEATED) THAT

MOST OF THE PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE IN THE CAPITOL BUT WE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THEM. THERE IS SOMETHING OF A COMPLICATION IN THAT A SOVIET DELEGATION, LED BY PONOMAREV, ARRIVING JANUARY 22, HAS EXTENDED ITS STAY IN THE US AND THERE IS SOME OVERLAP WITH THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION'S VISIT. SOME OF THE SAME PERSONS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWO DELEGATIONS, BUT WE HOPE THIS WILL NOT CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTY.

4. DURING AN EXTENDED EXCHANGE ON A STRICTLY UNOFFICIAL BASIS, THE QUESTION AROSE AS TO A FEW DAYS' DELAY IN THE ARRIVAL OF GLIGOROV. SINDJELIC AND WE AGREED ON THE NECESSITY FOR A REASONABLE GAP BETWEEN GLIGOROV'S DEPARTURE AND TITO'S ARRIVAL, WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IF GLIGOROV CAME FEBRUARY 5-15 AND TITO ARRIVED IN EARLY MARCH. SO EVERYTHING HINGED ON KNOWING THE DATES OF TITO'S VISIT.

5. VEST MADE CLEAR TO SINDJELIC THAT WE WERE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THAT THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING ALL APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED WITH FOREIGN LEADERS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1978. HE SAID WE EXPECTED TO HAVE A DATE VERY SHORTLY. HE STRESSED THAT WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO FIX THE DATE FOR TITO'S VISIT AND TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT FOR GLIGOROV.
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6. SINDJELIC, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, ALLUDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PONOMAREV BEING RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS ARE EXCEEDINGLY SENSITIVE ON THIS POINT. VEST SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT SINDJELIC SAID AND WE WOULD KEEP THIS MATTER VERY MUCH IN MIND. CHRISTOPHER

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